



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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81023/047

October 13, 1995

John Holfert  
Utah Mineral and Fossil Incorporated  
997 North Chapel Drive #4  
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Re: Variance Requests, Utah Mineral & Fossil Inc., Maynard Topaz, S/023/047, Juab County, Utah

Dear Mr. Holfert:

On July 17, 1995, William Stokes of School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) and myself performed an unscheduled inspection of your Maynard Topaz site. I apologize for not notifying you but the inspection was done while we were in the area.

You requested the following variances in your June 20, 1995 SMO application:

# 9. *Reclaim all roads that are not part of the permanent transportation system.*

**Response:**

Reclamation of the road accessing the site across State Lands is considered your responsibility as described in the SITLA letter of September 7, 1995. The portion of the access road which crosses BLM lands will not be considered an issue until the time of final reclamation. At that time, a decision will be made by the BLM regarding the outcome of this portion of the road based on its post mine land use. Any concerns or questions regarding the road issue should be directed to Rody Cox at the BLM's House Range Resource Area (743-6811). It is also the Division's position to respect the needs of the landowners in regards to reclamation of the access road. **Therefore, the variance request for reclamation of the portion of the road on SITLA lands is denied. The portion of the road on BLM land will be determined at the time of final reclamation, based on the BLM's decision.**

# 10. *Stockpile topsoil and suitable overburden prior to mining.*

**Response:**

The saving of topsoil and performing reclamation of the site using salvaged topsoil was considered and it is apparent that very little topsoil exists in the area. Since very little or no topsoil is found, **a variance based on this premise is granted for topsoil.**

# 12. *Properly prepare the seedbed to a depth of six inches by ripping, discing, or harrowing.*

**Response:**

The rocky nature of the overburden and the lack of suitable topsoil may preclude discing or harrowing, but it would be a good idea to rip any compacted pad areas to 6" prior to seeding. **The**



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**variance to ripping the compacted surface areas or other accessible areas following mining is denied.**

- # 13. *Reseed disturbed areas with adaptable species and*
- #14. *Plant the seed with a rangeland or farm drill, or if broadcast seeded, harrow or rake the seed 1/4-1/2 inch into the soil-fall is the preferred time to seed.*

**Response:**

The Division recommends seeding 20 lbs./acre of native and introduced species of grass, forb, and browse seed, and will provide a specific species list if requested.

Since you are currently using the pad area, it is considered your responsibility to pull it back, reclaim and reseed it following mining. In terms of revegetation success, we understand the limits under which you will be operating but will still request that you scarify and reseed the area. You will still be required to scarify and seed any areas following mining, but it is understood that the area is sparsely vegetated and the results may be marginal and this will be considered at time of release.

It may not be prudent to seed any remaining rocky slopes but areas such as roads, pads, and any areas with finer soil material will benefit from reseeded. **These variance requests regarding reseeded are denied.**

During the inspection, it was determined that the pits created are significant and the backfilling of these pits is appropriate, given the amount of material available in the pad and surrounding the pits. We realize that it may not be feasible to totally backfill the pits until your operation is finished since a large amount of material contained in the pad should be placed in the pit areas. The Division expects approximate original contour of the land at the end of your mining venture and the backfilling of all pits as they appear to have been disturbed within the scope of your operation.

If you would like to have a site visit to discuss these issues or if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter please feel free to contact me or Wayne Hedberg.

Sincerely,



Tom Munson  
Reclamation Hydrologist

jb  
cc: Will Stokes, SITLA  
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM  
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